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Food For Thought



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The Power of Admitting to Your Mistakes

When it comes to leadership, we often hear things like “never show your weaknesses” or “don’t let them see you sweat” or “show no fear”. Although being confident is a critical characteristic of leadership, this doesn’t mean you shouldn’t admit to your own mistakes. Indeed, we should immediately own and admit to our mistakes—this is perhaps one of the biggest traits of a true leader.

In fact, admitting a failure can immediately take the sting out of it and turn it into a powerful leadership opportunity. By admitting failures and mistakes, you can actually gain trust and respect from your co-workers and teammates. In an era when finger pointing and cover ups are the norm (from oil spills to political blunders to bank practices) admitting to your mistakes is a refreshing and ethical characteristic. When you own up to your mistakes, (no matter how big or small) you show others that you take responsibility for your actions.

To be sure, admitting to your mistakes is not always easy. There's always the fear of losing your job, fear of being embarrassed, and fear of feeling inferior. However, if you try to blame others or cover the mistake up, it's just a matter of time before the truth will come out. And by that time, the damage and consequences will be much more severe.

*"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
Albert Einstein*

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